



fleurieu birdwatch

April 2001

Meetings: Anglican Church Hall, cnr Crocker and Cadell Streets, Goolwa
7.30 pm 2nd Friday of alternate (odd) months

Outings: Meet 8.30 am. Bring lunch and a chair — see Diary

Contacts: Judith Dyer, phone 8555 2736 Ann Turner, phone 8554 2462
30 Woodrow Way, Goolwa 5214 9 Carnegie Street, Pt Elliot 5212

Web site: www.adelaide.net.au/~mhaywood/Fleurieu%20Birdwatchers.htm

FOR YOUR DIARY

✦ Saturday 7 April

Newland Head
BYO barbecue to follow (barbecues available) at
Dennis Hut.
Meet at Dennis Hut in the campground.

NO APRIL WEEKDAY OUTINGS BECAUSE OF EASTER

✦ Saturday 28 April

Bullock Hill
Meet at Ashbourne near the telephone box.

✦ Friday 11 May

Meeting
Video — Living Wetlands, Honeyeaters

✦ Sunday 13 May

Onkaparinga Wetlands
Meet at the Park by the Institute, Old Noarlunga

✦ Wednesday 23 May

Mt Billy Conservation Park
Turn off Adelaide Road towards Myponga about 8
km north of Victor Harbor. Meet at the Hindmarsh
Valley Hall and tennis courts about 200 metres
further on.

✦ Saturday 2 June

Gilbert Siding

Meet at the junction of Strathalbyn Road and Gilbert
Siding Road, Finniss

✦ Wednesday 13 June

Muntiri

Meet at the junction of Strathalbyn and Milang/
Clayton Roads at Finniss.

✦ Saturday 23 June

Aldinga Scrub and Willunga Wetlands
Meet by the cemetery on Aldinga Road, Willunga,
near the access roads at the bottom of Willunga Hill.

Quarantine Matters!

AUSTRALIAN QUARANTINE AND INSPECTION SERVICE

Speaker at the March meeting was member,
Mark Filkin, who works for AQIS. He gave a most
interesting and topical talk on his work and showed
us a number of high risk items which had been
brought into the country, sometimes in ignorance,
sometimes in defiance.

His graphic presentation of some of the awful
bugs, such as screw-worm fly and foot and mouth
disease, which could devastate the country's
agricultural economy, made us aware of the perils
of contaminated imports such as seeds and nuts,
and plant and animal products.

Chris Wastell proposed a vote of thanks and was
well supported by other members.

Bird Call

Members at the March meeting reported some interesting sightings:

- ◆ 100 Musk Duck at Tauwitcheree
- ◆ Red Wattlebirds on a very welcome visit to Judith Dyer's brand new garden
- ◆ Unusual lack at this time of year of Cape Barren Geese circling over Goolwa. Since this report many CBG have been seen over Goolwa. Ed
- ◆ Peregrine Falcons at Pt Noarlunga South
- ◆ Fork-tailed Swift among Tree Martins overhead at Victor — we were advised to watch out for Swift as the season changes over the next few weeks.

Phyll Whellams, Kate Bruce and Judith Dyer had specimens to circulate: Fairy Penguin and Little Eagle skins, Tawny Frogmouth nestling (a sad story!), Eastern Spinebill, a tiny White-fronted Chat nestling and a Willy Wagtail.

WELCOME

Pat and Bernie Ashfield,
Victor Harbor

We hope you will enjoy your
birding activities with us.



Badges

If your name badge is looking a bit tatty let me know and I will print a new insert for you. V

Condolences

to Chris and Bronwyn Wastell on the recent passing of Chris' father.

OUTINGS

Goolwa Effluent Ponds
Saturday 3 February

Weather was part cloud and sun, with a fairly strong breeze at times, but the clouds gradually thickened and, by the time the walk was completed, there was solid cloud cover and it was quite cool — a welcome relief from the previous days' heat.

Seventeen members and one visitor met at 8.30 am and we split into two groups to walk round the ponds and surrounding area. White-fronted Chat and Grey Fantail were fluttering over and on the salt pans as the water level was

very low. It continues to amaze me why birds congregate on one pond and hardly any can be seen on the adjacent one. On our walk we climbed through wire fences and quite thick scrub — with a wary lookout for snakes, but only saw a young fox. A larger fox ran almost completely round one of the ponds, scaring water birds in all directions but not catching any. It was a magnificent sight.

The whole area had plenty of bird call and sightings included two raptors and Spotted Crake. 49 species in total were recorded later at the bird call by the bird hide and a very enjoyable time was had by all.

Ann Gilbert

Cox Scrub West – Coles Crossing
Saturday 24 February

A fine and mild morning brought together 23 birdwatchers who divided into two groups. Good numbers of Red-browed Finches were seen close to the river crossing. Other species included Scarlet Robin, Elegant Parrot, Sacred Kingfisher, Brown-headed Honeyeater and Purple-crowned Lorikeet.

The Spot of the Day was found where the two groups came together halfway around the walk — an Australian Owlet-nightjar perched silently in a small tree staring at us with its great dark eyes. Lovely to see it so close and so clearly.

A total of 44 species was recorded for the outing.
Jean Boomer

Hindmarsh Island
Sunday 11 March

Over the new bridge like a breeze on a cool windy morning, we first settled on the roads around the marina, observing various raptors — Australian Hobby, Brown Falcon, Nankeen Kestrel and Black-shouldered Kite. Welcome Swallow were abundant around the canals and swamp areas. Pacific Black Duck, with some Grey Teal, were the main duck sightings.

Moving off to the barrage area Grebe were almost non-existent but Little Black Cormorant, Pelican and Australian White Ibis were plentiful with sightings of Little and Great Egret on the far bank.

Heading off towards the Denver Road ford we found Australian Shellduck, Purple Swamphen

and Eurasian Coot, and Cape Barren Geese in great numbers in the paddocks around the wetlands areas.

Swamp Harrier was also seen at the ford and Whistling Kite complemented the count of raptors. Pied Oystercatcher and a few Sooty, were common on the water's edge

We headed to the end of the Mundoo Channel and walked across the flats to a channel (Scab Creek) where both the Great and Little Egret were standing together. Greenshank and a number of Red-capped Plover were also seen here. Although waders were not plentiful in our views, our count ended up at 47 species.

Bruce Riglin

Scott Conservation Park
Wednesday 21 March

It would have been a good morning to stay in bed as cool, squally weather moved across the southern Fleurieu, but five hardy souls set out to discover where the birdies went to get out of the rain. While strong winds battered the treetops we were largely unruffled below and only slightly damp.

The Tree Martins above us played Tiggly Touchwood with the wind but most other species had fled the scene. There were a few White-backed Magpie, a couple of Striated Pardalote, Golden Whistler, Superb Fairy-wren, elusive Crested Shrike-tit and lorikeets whisked by so fast they could hardly be identified.

The count was only 18 species until a pair of Scarlet Robin made their appearance on the fence as we sat in light mist refuelling and relishing our warm cuppas — and we still don't know where the birds hide in such inclement conditions!

Verle Wood

GRANITE ISLAND PENGUIN CENSUS 2001

Granite Island Penguin Census 2001 is being organised by the Friends of Granite Island Recreation Park to determine the population status of the Little Penguin *Eudyptula minor* in the Encounter Bay area. Little Penguins are known to inhabit Granite Island and West Island, and may also be present on Wright Island, Pullen Island and Seal Rocks. Although the breeding success of Little Penguins is monitored in Granite Island and West Island, a complete census of Little Penguins has

never before been attempted on any of the islands in the Encounter Bay area.

Knowledge of penguin numbers is vital for the ongoing management and conservation of this species. In our inaugural census we plan to estimate the population of penguins present on Granite Island on Saturday 12 and Sunday 13 May 2001. We plan to repeat this exercise later in 2001 and, hopefully, make the penguin census a biennial event. Additional penguin counts on other islands are also a possibility in the future.

We welcome the participation of volunteers for all or part of the census. Children are also welcome but they need to be under the supervision of an adult at all times. As this is a wildlife watching activity it is important for all participants to be unobtrusive and to minimise the disturbance to penguins and other wildlife. Be aware that Granite Island is rough and steep in places, and freak waves, slippery rocks and high winds can also be hazardous. All participants need to be signed in as honorary Friends of Granite Island RP before participation in the census.

On each day there will be

- A count of penguins observed in burrows during the day
- A count of penguins returning from the sea
- Opportunities for social events.

Contacts:

Paula Peeters 8552 1247 or Natalie Gilbert
8552 7555. email: pjp@dove.net.au

Please register with us
if you would like to help!

What to bring

Warm waterproof clothes, sturdy footwear, water bottle, watch, food or money to purchase food at kiosk, binoculars (optional)

For day census: Torch with red cellophane (for looking in burrows), hat, sunblock, sunglasses

For night census: Torch with red cellophane (for getting around the island at night), pencil and paper, pillow or chair to sit on, insect repellent.

Fleurieu Birdwatchers Inc

MINUTES of the ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held Friday 9 March 2001 at the Anglican Church Hall, Goolwa.

Present: Kate Bruce, Judith Dyer, Brian Ginno, Gaynor Jones, Judith Jones, Jan Macklin, Helen Marinos, Denzel Murfet, Don Overall, Rosalie Sharpe, Kit Smith, Liz Sweetman, Win Syson, Ann Turner, Bronwyn and Chris Wastell, Phyll Whellams, Verle and Collin Wood and visitors Bernie and Pat Ashfield.

Apologies: Maureen Ginno, Andrew and Heather Jeffery, Pauline Kennare, Hilary Klompenhouwer, Beryl Ostermann and Dianne Shearer.

Minutes of previous AGM: As this was the first Annual General Meeting since incorporation an extract from the April 2000 newsletter reporting the proceedings of the previous AGM were read and accepted.

Reports: Reports were presented by the Chairman, Brian Ginno, and the Secretary, Judith Dyer. Copies attached.

Financial Statement: Treasurer, Judith Jones, presented the audited Annual Financial Statement and moved its adoption. Seconded by Mark Filkin and passed. Statement attached.

Judy outlined our financial position for the next 12 months and, supported by the retiring committee, proposed an increase in annual subscriptions for the coming year: \$15 single, \$20 family and \$10 junior membership. Seconded by Chris Wastell and passed.

It was agreed to record a Vote of Thanks to Bruce Riglin for auditing our financial statement and ask if he would be available again for 2001/02.

Election of Officers: All positions were declared vacant and Collin Wood took the chair for the election of a Chairman for a two-year term and 5–6 Committee members. Collin asked if the members would like to record a Vote of Thanks to the 2000/01 Committee. This was proposed by Gaynor Jones, seconded by Helen Marinos and passed.

Officers elected were

Chairperson: Gaynor Jones

Committee: Judith Dyer, Judith Jones, Mark Filkin, Denzel Murfet, Phyll Whellams, Ann Turner

Newsletter Editor: Verle Wood

Suppers: Kate Bruce and Helen Marinos

Auditor: Bruce Riglin, subject to agreement.

Other Business:

Suppers

- ◆ It was moved and seconded that a Vote of Thanks be recorded to Hilary Klompenhouwer for here exceptional devotion to supper duties over several years. Unanimously accepted.
- ◆ It was proposed and seconded that members give a donation (50 cents suggested) for tea/coffee and biscuits at meetings. All agreed.

Meeting closed.



SUBSCRIPTIONS for 2001–02 are now due.

At the AGM it was agreed to increase the annual subs to cover costs for the coming year.

In particular, we have a large insurance premium to cover now that we are incorporated.

We would appreciate early payment of fees to improve our immediate cash flow.

Please place your subs in the enclosed envelope along with the payment slip
and forward to the Treasurer, Judy Jones.

This will be your last newsletter unless we receive your subscription.

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Please forward newsletter material to Verle Wood, 13 Marlin Terrace, Victor Harbor 5211 or email: verlew@granite.net.au
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